

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

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January 23, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). By some measures, the FCC oversees approximately one sixth of the United States economy. Your success at managing such a critical agency is dependent on your ability to be responsive to members of Congress on both sides of the aisle; your willingness to drive towards consensus on major Commission actions; and your respect for career staff—the lifeblood of the agency.

First, as an independent agency, the FCC operates under authority delegated to it from Congress. That means the agency's primary responsibility is to the legislative, rather than the executive branch. As Chair of the agency, we hope you will be fully responsive to all members of Congress and cooperate fully with all Congressional investigations.

Second, as you have correctly said many times, the FCC works best when its leadership works in a bipartisan fashion towards consensus. The industries overseen by the Commission are becoming only more important to our economy and our democracy. As a result, an effective, bipartisan regulator is critical to ensuring our continued success. We hope that you continue to advocate for a bipartisan, inclusive Commission and choose the bipartisan approach.

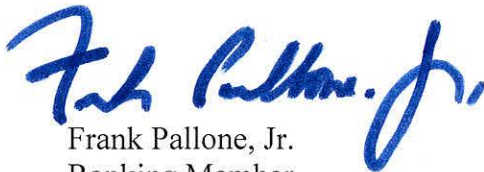
Finally, a successful agency respects its civil servants. The hardworking employees of the FCC are respected throughout the industry as true experts in their fields. While the new Administration is entitled to select political appointees who share the President-Elect's views, the Commission's career staff serve an invaluable purpose and should be respected.

To ensure that your term is as successful as possible, we ask that you make the following commitments:

1. As Chair, you will ensure that the Commission will brief relevant Committee leadership—no matter their party—on all major decisions before the Commission acts and that you will be responsive to all Congressional inquiries.
2. As Chair, you will work with your colleagues in a bipartisan fashion to reach consensus before moving ahead with major policy decisions.
3. As Chair, you will not take any effort to retaliate against, undermine, demote or marginalize civil servants on the basis of their analysis or their work under previous Commission leadership.

We believe that living up to these commitments will increase the likelihood of a successful term as Chair. We wish you well in your new role.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Mike Doyle  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 27, 2017

The Honorable Mike Doyle  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

Thank you for your letter regarding my designation as the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to lead this agency and serve the American people. As your letter makes clear, we share the same goals of ensuring that the FCC operates in a transparent, bipartisan, and collaborative manner that respects the dedicated and hardworking staff serving within the agency.

First, the Commission is a creature of Congress, and it is therefore important that we keep Congress informed about what the FCC is doing. I intend to reach out to Committee leadership, Committee Members and non-Committee Members in a bipartisan manner. In the same vein, I will continue to strive to be responsive to all Congressional inquiries to the extent that I can within the law and Commission rules.

Second, with regard to reaching consensus with my fellow Commissioners, as well as my interactions with Congress, I believe that the Commission is at its best when it proceeds on the basis of consensus and that good communications policy knows no partisan affiliation. As we move forward, I will do my best to hear all points of view—to approach every issue with a literal open door and a figurative open mind.

Third, in my first speech to the entire Commission as Chairman, I reminded staff that I started as a staffer in the agency and have gotten to know and admire so many people in this building. Thus, as I enter this new position, I wanted staff to know that I value and respect each and every one of them and that the agency can accomplish nothing without their hard work and effort. Accordingly, it is important that they are treated fairly.

Your thoughtful words and views are very important to me. They reflect my own views, and I look forward to working with you in my new role as Chairman. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

*Ajit Pai*  
Ajit Pai

P.S. Excited to work with you - notwithstanding your Steelers' decisive playoff victory over my woebegone Chiefs!





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

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January 27, 2017

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Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
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2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
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*P.S. I'm excited to collaborate with you and your excellent staff, including David Goldman, one of the best in the business!*

Sincerely,

Ajit Pai